

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 05138 231055Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 CPR-03 H-02
SS-15 SP-02 PA-02 /045 W
-----083459 231914Z /50
R 231010Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6514
INFO USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS RABAT 5138

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, MO
SUBJECT: VISIT TO US OF MOROCCAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION,
JULY 21-25

1. POLITICAL COUNSELOR'S COURTESY CALL ON SECRETARY
GENERAL OF MOROCCAN PARLIAMENT MOHAMED CHIADMI ON AUGUST
18 OFFERED OPPORTUNITY FOR REVIEW OF MOROCCAN PARLIAMEN-
TARY DELEGATION'S JULY TRIP TO US. CHIADMI, A CLOSE
ASSOCIATE OF PARLIAMENT PRESIDENT SIDI BABA WHO LED THE
DELEGATION, HAD ONLY PRAISE FOR THE VISIT. HE DWELT
AT LENGTH ON THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD US-MOROCCAN RELATIONS,
THE COURTESY SHOWN THE DELEGATION, AND THE IMPORTANCE TO
MOROCCANS OF PERSONAL CONTACT.

2. FROM EMBASSY'S PERSPECTIVE, VISIT WAS A SOLID
SUCCESS. IT PRODUCED AT LOW COST TO US TAXPAYER: EN-
COURAGEMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF MOROCCAN LEGISLATIVE
INSTITUTIONS, A BASIC FOUNDATION FOR MOROCCAN PROGRESS IN THE
HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD; EXPOSURE TO THE US OF PRESENT AND FUTURE
LEADERS OF THE MOROCCAN PARLIAMENT; HOSPITALITY WHICH SHOULD
PAY DIVIDENDS LATER, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE
IMPORTANCE MOROCCANS ATTACH TO PERSONAL GESTURES;
SOME USEFUL DISCUSSION ON SUBSTANTIVE
QUESTIONS BETWEEN DELEGATION MEMBERS AND DEPARTMENT
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PAGE 02 RABAT 05138 231055Z

OFFICIALS. WE EXTEND OUR WARM APPRECIATION TO ALL WHO MADE
THE VISIT SO PRODUCTIVE.

3. BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMENTS HERE BY DELEGATION
MEMBERS HAVE BEEN UNIFORMLY POSITIVE. ON THEIR
RETURN FROM US ON SUNDAY, JULY 31, SIDI BABA MADE A POINT
OF EXPRESSING HIS APPRECIATION TO EMBOFF FOR THE HIGH

LEVEL AT WHICH THE GROUP HAD BEEN RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON. AT AN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE, HE STRESSED THE WARMTH OF THE AMERICAN WELCOME IN WASHINGTON AND THE USEFULNESS OF THE VISIT-- WHICH HE SAID OFFERED THE MOROCCAN DELEGATION THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL THE UNDERLYING CAUSES FOR THE PRESENT TENSION IN THE SPANISH SAHARA AND TO LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES' LEGISLATIVE BODIES. HE NOTED THAT THE MOROCCAN SAHARA POSITION RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE UNDERSTANDING AND A GENERALLY FAVORABLE REACTION FROM AMERICAN LEGISLATORS. THE ARRIVAL PRESS CONFERENCE WAS WELL COVERED BY MOROCCAN PAPERS AS WAS SIDI BABA'S JULY 25 PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE US, WHERE HE MADE THE SAME POINTS AND SEVERAL OTHERS: MOROCCO WOULD SUPPORT SADAT IN THE MIDDLE EAST; IN MOROCCO'S VIEW THE US "WAS A COUNTRY THAT KNEW HOW TO COME TO THE SIDES OF ITS FRIENDS IN TIME OF NEED"; THE TOUCHY QUESTION OF ARMS PURCHASES FROM THE US DID NOT ARISE.

4. FOLLOWING RAMADAN WE LOOK FORWARD TO BUILDING FURTHER ON THE FOUNDATIONS SO FIRMLY LAID BY THE EXCHANGE OF VISITS BY CODEL SMITH AND THE MOROCCAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION. WE HOPE THAT HE WILL FIND APPROPRIATE WAY TO PASS ON TO THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AND STAFFERS WHO ASSISTED SIDI BABA AND HIS BAND OUR GLOWING ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS AND DEEP APPRECIATION. MOFFAT
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 RABAT 05138 231055Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978RABAT05138
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780345-0331
Format: TEL
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780833/aaaabaxe.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b5c4305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1647654
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO US OF MOROCCAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION, JULY 21-25
TAGS: OVIP, PGOV, MO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b5c4305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014